



Murder on the Orient Express

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While reading

Chapter 1

1 Write the names to finish the sentences.

- Ratchett Bouc Mr Harris
Colonel Arbuthnot Mrs Hubbard
Miss Debenham Princess Dragomiroff
- a became very nervous when there was a delay on the train from Syria to Istanbul.
 - b had spent a lot of time in the army in India.
 - c helped Poirot to find a compartment on the Orient Express.
 - d seemed to have a wild animal hidden inside him.
 - e arrived too late to catch the train.
 - f had a husband who had got his money out of his country before the Communists took control.
 - g had a daughter who was teaching at a college in Turkey.

Chapter 2

2 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Bouc told Poirot that a sgrsapene had been murdered in his bed.
- b The window of Ratchett's compartment was open, but there were no tofoptsnir in the snow.
- c The door was locked and etdolb on the inside.
- d Bouc said that when the police arrived, there would be delays and apnsnestnaselu
- e MacQueen acted svrenyluo as he sat down opposite Poirot.
- f Poirot read the carefully printed dwrngninahti on the notepaper.
- g Poirot bent down to look at the suodnw on Ratchett's body.
- h Poirot found a gun under Ratchett's lipwlo
- i Poirot found a small, pretty kaheihfcerdn on the floor of Ratchett's compartment.
- j Colonel Armstrong's daughter was pdiknadep and then murdered.

Chapter 3

3 Answer the questions.

- a Who did Poirot interview first?
.....
- b What was on the back of the red dressing gown that the lady in the corridor was wearing?
.....
- c Why did Princess Dragomiroff ring her bell?
.....
- d How did MacQueen feel when he found out that Ratchett was really Cassetti?
.....
- e What did Ratchett normally take before he went to bed?
.....
- f Who did Mrs Hubbard think had been in her compartment the previous night?
.....
- g Where had Mrs Hubbard put her jewellery?
.....
- h What did Mrs Hubbard take from her handbag?
.....
- i Why couldn't Mrs Hubbard see if the door between her compartment and the next one was bolted or not?
.....
- j Why had the Swedish lady gone to see Mrs Hubbard?
.....

Chapter 4

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Greta Ohlsson said she slept very deeply and didn't know if anybody had entered or left her compartment the night before.
- b Greta said she liked the Americans because they give a lot of money to schools and hospitals in Turkey.
- c Poirot believed that the Italian was the murderer.
- d The conductor, Michel, had lost a button from his uniform.
- e Princess Dragomiroff looked very ugly when Poirot spoke to her.
- f Princess Dragomiroff knew the Armstrong family very well.



Murder on the Orient Express

Book key

- 1 Open answers
 2 Open answers (in the 1930s)
 3 Open answers (clues, evidence, a train)
 4 Open answers
 5 a 5 b 6 c 1 d 8 e 4 f 2 g 3 h 7
 6 a T
 b F (It is usually easy in the winter.)
 c T
 d T
 e F (Ratchett wants Poirot to protect him, but Poirot refuses.)
 f F (The train stops because there is thick snow on the line.)
 7–8 Open answers
 9 a Bouc b letters c MacQueen d dead
 e kidnapped
 10 an open window, an empty glass, a handkerchief, a burnt note, a pocket watch, a gun, a pipe cleaner, a used match
 11–14 Open answers
 15 a twenty to one b one o'clock c two o'clock
 d twenty past twelve e nine o'clock
 f four o'clock in the morning g half past ten
 16 a MacQueen left it unbolted after getting out of the train at Vincovci.
 b He shares a compartment with Masterman.
 c The Swedish lady visited Mrs Hubbard's compartment because she wanted one.
 d Mrs Hubbard found one on top of a magazine that she had put on the floor the night before. The button is from a conductor's uniform.
 e A woman in a red dressing gown was seen in the corridor during the night, but no one saw her face.
 17 Open answers
 18 Open answers
 (a Princess Dragomiroff
 b Colonel Arbuthnot
 c the Hungarian diplomat, Count Andrenyi)
 19 a Greta Ohlsson
 b Princess Dragomiroff
 c Princess Dragomiroff
 d Countess Andrenyi
 e Countess Andrenyi
 f Colonel Arbuthnot
 20 a Colonel Arbuthnot is talking about Robert Armstrong.
 b Princess Dragomiroff is talking about Linda Arden's younger daughter.
 c M. Bouc is talking about the Italian man who shares a compartment with Masterman.
 d Count Andrenyi is talking about his wife.
 21–22 Open answers
 23 a F (He is a private detective.)
 b F (Hildegarde Schmidt saw a small, dark man in the corridor.)
 c T
 d F (We learn nothing new from her.)
 e F (A conductor almost ran into Hildegarde Schmidt, but it wasn't Michel.)
 24 a Foscarelli's
 b Hardman's
 c Hildegarde Schmidt's
 25–27 Open answers
 28 a 4 b 1 c 2 d 5 e 6 f 3
 29 a the small, dark man with a high voice
 b the knife that Mrs Hubbard found in her sponge bag
 c Countess Andrenyi
 d the conductor's uniform found in Hildegarde Schmidt's suitcase
 e Mrs Hubbard
 f Miss Debenham
 30–33 Open answers
 34 a Countess Andrenyi
 b Count Andrenyi
 c Princess Dragomiroff
 35–38 Open answers
 39 a Miss Debenham was Helena's governess.
 b Foscarelli was the Armstrongs' driver.
 c Greta Ohlsson was Daisy's nurse.
 d Michel is Susanne's father.
 e Colonel Arbuthnot was Robert Armstrong's friend.
 f Mrs Hubbard is Sonia and Helena's mother.
 40–52 Open answers



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Discussion activities key

- 1 The Orient Express first ran in 1883 from Paris to Vienna. The train was very luxurious with many sleeping carriages and it is often associated with romance. The restaurant carriage is of a very high standard and offered a variety of food. The current service only runs from Strasbourg to Vienna, although a private company now runs restored carriages from the 1920s and 1930s from London to Venice. This is clearly aimed at leisure travellers, with tickets costing more than £1,200 per person. Among others, the Orient Express is featured in the books *Dracula* and *From Russia with Love*, in the films *Around the World in Eighty Days* (2004) and *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974 and 2001) and in the TV series *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and the travel documentary *Around the World in Eighty Days*.
- 2 She was very successful, selling more copies of her books than any other novelist in history. She was taught at home by a governess until she was sixteen, when she went to Paris to study singing and piano. She started writing very young and had one of her poems published in a newspaper at eleven. During the war, she worked in a hospital. She got her idea for Poirot from Belgian soldiers that were in her town and the idea of Miss Marple from her grandmother. She loved travelling. She was successful because she wrote about what she knew. She wrote *Murder on the Orient Express* in a hotel in Syria.
- 3 Open answers
- 4 Poirot is a Belgian detective. He has a strange egg-shaped head and an enormous moustache. Colonel Arbuthnot is English and he is tall and thin. He is in his forties and has greying hair and skin darkened by the sun. He has lived in India. Miss Debenham is a tall, thin young lady. She is good-looking, but a little cold. She looks like an experienced traveller and she is efficient. She was a governess in Baghdad. She has some kind of mysterious relationship with the Colonel. She gets nervous when there is a delay. Bouc is short and fat and in his fifties. He is Belgian and works for the train company. He is an old friend of Poirot's. Princess Dragomiroff is a very ugly lady who wears expensive clothes and jewellery. She is Russian. MacQueen is American and works for Ratchett. Ratchett is a cruel-looking man. He is rich and somebody has threatened to kill him. Mrs Hubbard is American and talks a lot. She has a daughter who works in Turkey. She is very rude about people of other nationalities.
- 5 Suggested crimes: Burglary, shoplifting, murder, mugging, hijacking, kidnapping, arson, blackmail, robbery, fraud, smuggling. + Open answers
- 6–7 Open answers
- 8 The letters might refer back to the Armstrong case and include reasons why Ratchett is a horrible man and deserves to be punished. They might also include the kind of things they are going to do to him and the impossibility of escaping.
- 9 Belgian (Poirot, Bouc), English (Mary Debenham, Masterman, Colonel Arbuthnot), American (Ratchett, MacQueen, Hardman, Mrs Hubbard), Russian (Princess Dragomiroff), Hungarian (Count and Countess Andrenyi), French (Pierre Michel), Swedish (Greta Ohlsson), Italian (Foscarelli), German (Hildegard Schmidt).
- 10 The bolt in Mrs Hubbard's original compartment was thirty centimetres above the door handle so she must have been able to see that it wasn't locked. Poirot found a packet of pipe cleaners that were exactly the same as the one found at the crime scene in Colonel Arbuthnot's luggage. This may mean he was at the crime scene. The label on Countess Andrenyi's suitcase was wet. This may mean she has changed it recently and is hiding her true name. A conductor's uniform was found in Hildegard Schmidt's suitcase, which may mean she is the murderer or the murderer left it there. Poirot found the red dressing gown in his suitcase, so somebody probably put it there.
+ Open answers
- 11–13 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a Miss Debenham
b Colonel Arbuthnot
c Bouc
d Ratchett
e Mr Harris
f Princess Dragomiroff
g Mrs Hubbard
- 2 a passenger b footprints c bolted
d unpleasantness e nervously f handwriting
g wounds h pillow i handkerchief
j kidnapped



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- 3 a The conductor.
b A Chinese-style picture.
c Because she wanted her maid.
d He was angry.
e Medicine to help him sleep.
f The murderer/A man.
g Under her pillow.
h A small metal button.
i Because her sponge back was hanging on the door.
j To get some aspirin.
- 4 a ✗ b ✓ c ✗ d ✗ e ✓ f ✓ g ✗ h ✗
i ✗ j ✓
- 5 a pleasure > business
b children > criminals
c tall > small
d a British > an American
e guns > knives
f secretary > governess
g cheap > expensive
- 6 a clue b disproved c forwards d crowd
e sharp f willingly g curled h refused
i temper j tidily
- 7 a hands b pyjamas c ink d burnt e niece
f cheerful g stare h shook
- 8 a 4 b 2 c 6 d 1 e 8 f 5 g 3 h 7

Progress test key

- 1 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✓ e ✗ f ✗ g ✓ h ✗
i ✓ j ✓
- 2 a 3 b 10 c 1 d 9 e 5 f 4 g 8 h 6
i 2 j 7
- 3 a Mrs Armstrong
b Poirot
c Mrs Hubbard
d Pierre Michel
e Hildegarde Schmidt
f Ratchett
g Princess Dragomiroff
h Miss Debenham
i Colonel Arbuthnot
j Countess Andrenyi
- 4 a full b face c passports d pyjamas
e the conductor f lying g a hat



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- g Princess Dragomiroff was very sad that Ratchett had been killed.
- h Princess Dragomiroff said that she often saw Linda Arden's youngest daughter.
- i Count and Countess Andrenyi arrived at the restaurant carriage together.
- j Countess Andrenyi said she had only been married for a year.

Chapter 5

5 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- a Mr Hardman first said he was travelling for pleasure.
- b Mr Hardman had been to Istanbul to look for a couple of children.
- c Mr Ratchett said the person who was threatening him was tall and dark.
- d Foscarelli was Italian but he had become a British citizen.
- e Bouc said that Italians loved using guns.
- f Miss Debenham said she had been working as a secretary in Baghdad.
- g Hildegard said the handkerchief was very cheap.

Chapter 6

6 Finish the sentences with the right word.

- disproved sharp crowd willingly forwards tidily curled temper refused clue
- a Poirot thinks that the murderer possibly left the watch as a false
 - b Hardman's evidence could easily be by a call to New York.
 - c Mrs Hubbard fell and dropped into Bouc's arms.
 - d There was a of people outside Mrs Hubbard's compartment.
 - e The knife was and covered in blood.
 - f When Poirot asked Mrs Hubbard for permission to search her luggage, she agreed
 - g Countess Andrenyi was up in a chair when Poirot arrived.

- h Miss Debenham to explain the words she had said to Colonel Arbuthnot.
- i For the first time, Miss Debenham showed signs of losing her
- j The red dressing gown was placed in Poirot's suitcase.

Chapter 7

7 Find words in Chapter 7.

- a The parts of a watch that move to show us the time. (p. 52)
- b A type of clothes that you wear in bed. (p. 53)
- c Something you find inside a pen. (p. 53)
- d An adjective to describe what something is like after a fire. (p. 54)
- e The daughter of your brother or sister. (p. 56)
- f An adjective to describe somebody who is usually happy. (p. 57)
- g A long look at somebody or something. (p. 58)
- h Moved his head from side to side. (p. 59)

Chapter 8

8 What's first? Number the sentences 1-8.

- a Greta Ohlsson admits that she was Daisy Armstrong's nurse.
- b Miss Debenham explains why she lied about her job with the Armstrongs.
- c Poirot explains his first solution about a man who got on the train dressed as a conductor.
- d Poirot shows Colonel Arbuthnot the pipe cleaner and asks him if he murdered Ratchett.
- e Poirot decides to tell the police about his first solution.
- f Poirot explains to all the passengers that that he can think of two possible solutions to the crime.
- g Poirot tells Foscarelli that he knows he drove cars for the Armstrong family.
- h Poirot explains his second solution about twelve people being responsible for Ratchett's death.



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1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Poirot met Bouc in a hotel restaurant in Istanbul.
- b Poirot knew that Ratchett's name was really Cassetti from the beginning.
- c Some of Ratchett's wounds were very slight but some were very serious.
- d Colonel Armstrong shot himself after his wife died.
- e The conductor, Pierre Michel, didn't see anything the night of the murder because he was sleeping all the time.
- f Mrs Hubbard saw the man that was in her compartment very clearly.
- g All of the women on the train said they didn't have a red dressing gown.
- h Countess Andrenyi had spent many years living in America with her husband.
- i The American, Hardman, had been hired by Ratchett to protect him.
- j Poirot believed that the Countess was the only person not responsible for the murder.

2 What happened first? Number the sentences 1–10.

- a Poirot found a pipe cleaner on the floor of Ratchett's compartment.
- b Linda Arden said she always liked playing amusing characters.
- c A hotel worker told Poirot and Bouc that all the first-class and second-class compartments were full.
- d Greta Ohlsson admitted she had been Daisy Armstrong's nurse.
- e Poirot found an ink spot on Countess Andrenyi's passport.
- f Mrs Hubbard told Poirot that she thought a man had been in her compartment the night before.
- g Poirot told the Countess that he knew she was Mrs Armstrong's sister.
- h The American detective, Hardman, told Poirot about a man with a high voice.
- i Bouc asked Poirot to take command of the murder case.
- j Mrs Hubbard found a big knife in her sponge bag.

3 Write the names to finish the sentences.

- Poirot Ratchett Miss Debenham
Colonel Arbuthnot Countess Andrenyi
Mrs Hubbard Mrs Armstrong Pierre Michel
Princess Dragomiroff Hildegarde Schmidt
- a gave birth too soon because of her daughter's murder.
 - b said that to solve a case, a man just has to lie back and think.
 - c believed that the Turks were lazy and had terrible roads.
 - d was really the father of the Armstrong's maid.
 - e said that a small, dark conductor almost ran into her in the corridor.
 - f offered Poirot big money if he would help him.
 - g was very ugly and bought expensive clothes and jewellery.
 - h was worried that her reputation would be ruined if her photograph was in the newspapers.
 - i spoke to Mary on a train platform between Syria and Istanbul.
 - j 's husband said she didn't leave her compartment all night.

4 Circle the right words.

- a M. Bouc thought it was very strange that the Orient Express was *empty* / *full* / *delayed* at that time of year.
- b Poirot refused to help Ratchett because he didn't like his *business* / *face* / *wife*.
- c Poirot told Bouc that the first thing he needed was a plan of the compartments and the passengers' *luggage* / *keys* / *passports*.
- d The doctor found a gold watch in the pockets of Ratchett's *soap bag* / *pyjamas* / *trousers*.
- e When Mrs Hubbard thought there was a man in her compartment, she rang for *Poirot* / *her daughter* / *the conductor*.
- f M. Bouc said that he didn't like Italians because they used knives and were good at *lying* / *cooking* / *business*.
- g Miss Debenham said that the woman she saw in the corridor was wearing a red dressing gown and *a hat* / *shoes* / *socks*.